Texas Instruments Personal Computer

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User's Newsletter

# Great Gift Ideas... Newest Software Packages from TI

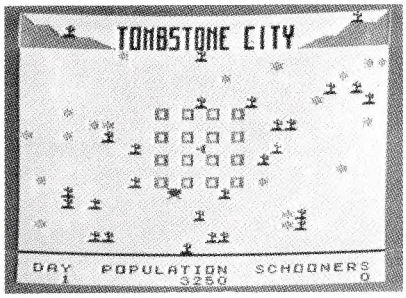
Texas Instruments now adds seven more software packages to the growing list of applications programs available for the TI-99/4 and TI-99/4A Home Computers. Each package would be a delightful Christmas package for your family and friends.

### Tombstone City: 21st Century

Your instinct for survival is challenged immediately with the Tombstone City: 21st Century *Solid State Software*™ Command Module. You find yourself in a 21st Century Old West ghost town threatened by an invading hoard of green alien monsters. These villainous creatures called morgs live off of only two things—tumbleweeds and people.

It's up to you and your security force of prairie schooners to stop the morgs before they infest the earth. In accomplishing this goal, you can score points by destroying alien morgs and wiping out tumbleweeds. Be sure and watch out for adjacent pairs of saguaro cactuses—it's from here that a new morg is generated!

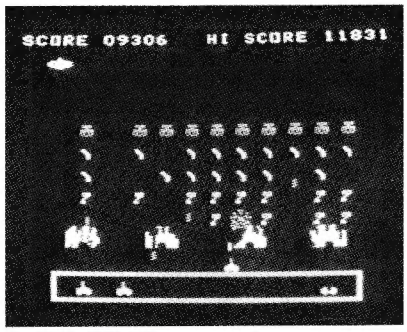
A one-player game, Tombstone City is designed to test your strategy as well as your skill. The Command Module version (model number PHM 3052) has a suggested retail price of $39.95. The TI Wired Remote Controllers are optional.




TI's fascinating new Tombstone City: 21st Century game challenges your strategy and skill in stopping a hoard of green alien monsters.

### TI Invaders

What if your world was under attack by numerous downright nasty creatures from space? This is the situation you face with the exciting new TI Invaders Command Module. It's up to you—can you save your world from this hostile horde? Can you destroy these swarming invaders before they demolish your missile?




Now with the exciting new TI Invaders game, you can try to destroy nasty space creatures before they demolish your missiles!

You must use your wit and quick movements in this one-player game to destroy the multi-colored creatures. But, as you shoot down each attacker, the swarming horde increases its speed and sprays shots at your missile. Your missiles are limited, so be cautious!

The TI Invaders Command Module (model number PHM 3053) has a suggested retail price of $39.95. The TI Wired Remote Controllers are optional.

### Car Wars

If you enjoy the excitement of high-speed racing, combined with the challenge of outmaneuvering a canny opponent, then Car Wars is your kind of game. With the Car Wars Command Module, you pit your speed and skill against the computer's as you try to get your car around the track without getting "crashed" off the field.

With the Car Wars module, you try to score points by clearing as many dots as possible from the lanes. In addition, you also want to avoid the computer's yellow car and obtain extra cars by clearing all of the driving lanes on the display. Various levels of difficulty allow you to add even more excitement to the action of this one-player game.

The Car Wars Command Module (model number PHM 3054) is one of the many arcade

(see NEWEST SOFTWARE, page 2)

# Newest Software (cont'd)

games now available for your TI Home Computer. Its suggested retail price is $39.95. The TI Wired Remote Controllers are optional.

**Adventure**

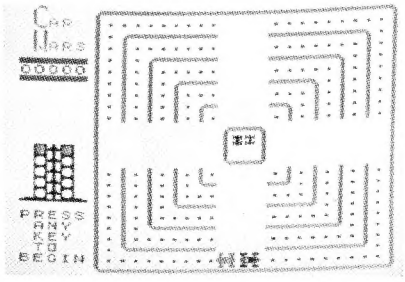
Have you ever dreamed of going on an Adventure and facing numerous challenges along the way? Now, with the Adventure Command Module and one of the many cassette- or diskette-based games developed by Adventure International, you can experience many different adventures without leaving the comfort of your home.

To play Adventure, you need both the Adventure Command Module and a cassette- or diskette- based Adventure game. The module contains the general program instructions which are customized by the particular cassette tape or diskette game you use with it. For your convenience, one free game on cassette or diskette, Pirate's Adventure, is included with the module. Adventure games available in the near future include Adventureland, Mystery Fun House, and Ghost Town. Each game challenges your powers of logical reasoning and may require hours, or even weeks, to complete.

The Adventure Command Module (model number PHM 3041D), with a free Pirate's Adventure diskette, is available at a suggested retail price of $49.95. It requires the TI Disk Memory System (TI Disk Drive Controller and TI Disk Memory Drive).

The module (model number PHM 3041T), with a free Pirate's Adventure cassette, is available at a suggested retail price of $49.95. It requires a cassette recorder and the TI Cassette Interface Cable.

Non-TI products are listed in this newsletter for your information. Their inclusion does not represent an endorsement by TI, and lists are not necessarily complete.




Car Wars, one of TI's many new arcade games, pits your driving expertise and agility against that of the computer.

**Bridge Bidding III**

The Bridge Bidding III package, developed for Texas Instruments by Robert Hamman and Robert Wolff of the Dallas "Aces," enables you to practice competitive bidding as you learn certain conventions that can be useful in competitive situations. The bidding situations covered are discipline, partnership trust, preemptive bids, takeout bids, and high-level judgment.

The package is available on diskette at a suggested retail price of $29.95 or on a cassette at a suggested retail price of $24.95. The diskette version (model number PHD 5041) requires the TI Disk Memory System (TI Disk Drive Controller and TI Disk Memory Drive). The cassette-based version (model number PHT 6041) requires a cassette recorder and TI Cassette Interface Cable.

**Spell Writer**

Spell Writer is a *Speak & Spell*™ type learning package designed to strengthen a child's spelling skills with its unlimited vocabulary using TI's text-to-speech capability. Spell Writer allows you to create customized spelling lists to accommodate a child's specific spelling needs. It also contains activities that encourage a child to practice the spelling words in the list and allows you to make additional copies of lesson files.

This package is available on diskette at a suggested retail price of $29.95 or on cassette at a suggested retail price of $24.95. The diskette version (model number PHD 5042) requires the TI Disk Memory System (TI Disk Drive Controller and TI Disk Memory Drive), the TI *Solid State Speech*™ Synthesizer, and the Terminal Emulator II *Solid State Software*™ Command Module. The cassette-based version (model number PHT 6042) requires a cassette recorder and TI Cassette Interface Cable, the Speech Synthesizer, and the Terminal Emulator II module.

**Basketball Statistician**

Now you can maintain current, accurate statistics on up to 16 players for a 40-game season with TI's new Basketball Statistician package. The Start Season/Add Players program allows you to establish a roster and add players. The Add/Update Stats option accepts information on new game statistics or changes in existing game statistics, while the Print Reports option lets you display or obtain printed copies of nine team statistics for a portion or an entire season.

The suggested retail price of Basketball Statistician (model number PHD 5023) is $24.95. Available in diskette only, it requires the TI Disk Memory System (TI Disk Drive Controller and TI Disk Memory Drive) and the TI Extended BASIC Command Module.

The Personal Computer User's Newsletter is published by the Texas Instruments Personal Computer Division, P.O. Box 53, Lubbock, Texas 79408. All correspondence concerning this newsletter should be mailed to the above address.

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# Users' Groups Offer Many Advantages

In early 1980, the first TI-99/4 Users' Group was formed. Today, the list of active Users' Groups has grown to 24, with several in the formation stage. The scope of these Users' Groups has become international with two organizations now in Australia and one in England, involving almost 1,000 members.

Naturally, the focal point for all these Users' Groups is the TI-99/4 or TI-99/4A Home Computer and its usage. But the Groups serve a variety of functions—they're excellent forums in which to share programs and computing ideas, as well as viable ways to see new products and to socialize with people having mutual interests. Many Groups also publish their own newsletters.

Typically, a Users' Group originates with about 15 people whose correspondent contacts the TI Users' Group Co-ordinator. The latter in turn mails them a Starting Kit which includes suggestions for a constitution, by-laws, preliminary organizational guidelines, agendas for the first three meetings, committee responsibilities, steps in setting up a newsletter, and other miscellaneous considerations. After a group meets three times, it is certified by TI.

An interesting aspect of the Users' Groups is family involvement. Many families come to the meetings.

A complete list of all Users' Groups follows. If you are interested in starting your own group, write:

Texas Instruments
Incorporated
P.O. Box 53
Lubbock, Texas 79408
Attn: Users' Group
Co-ordinator

## INTERNATIONAL USERS' GROUPS

International 99/4 Users' Group
7908 N.W. 23rd St., Suite 5
Bethany, OK 73008
(405) 787-8521

### Australia

Shane Anderson
Sydney, Australia 99/4 Users' Group
P.O. Box 101
Kings Croff, Australia 2011

Kevin Newnham
Perth, Western Australia
99/4 Users' Group
26a-49 Hedsman PD
Wembly, Western Australia 6014

### England

T. I. HOME
Paul Michael Dicks
157 Bishopsford Road
Morden
Surrey
SM4 6BH

## LOCAL USERS' GROUPS

### California

*Orange County:*
Chuck Hershey
c/o Daniel Industries, Inc.
1984 Gladwick Street
P.O. Box 6000
Compton, CA 90224
RE: Computer Club
(213) 774-9300

*San Diego:*
San Diego 99/4 Users' Group
Paul Yates
4037 Johnson Drive
Oceanside, CA 92054
(714) 758-4292

### Colorado

Denver 99/4 Users' Group
Rich Savage
CRS Inc.
4860 Ironton, Suite E
Denver, CO 80239
(303) 371-8272

### Illinois

*Chicago:*
Jerome Strauss
353 Park Drive
Palatine, IL 60067
(312) 397-2550

### Michigan

99/4 Users' Group
Duane Fischer
5028 Merit Drive
Flint, MI 48506
(313) 736-3774

### New York

Jerald Greenberg
22 Purchase St.
Rye, NY 10580
(914) 967-8370

Upstate New York 99/4 Users' Group
Paul A. Amodeo, Jr.
7 Steve Lane
Albany, NY 12205

### Ohio

*Cincinnati-Dayton:*
Cin-Day Users' Group
Jim Schwaller
11987 Cedarcreek Dr.
Cincinnati, OH 45240
(513) 825-6645

### Oregon

Pacific Northwest TI 99/4 Users' Group
Gary Kaplan
P.O. Box 5537
Eugene, OR 97405
(503) 485-8796

### Pennsylvania

*Northeast:*
Daniel Cooper
P.O. Box 285
Hazelton, PA 18201
(717) 454-0323

*Pittsburgh:*
Pittsburgh Users' Group
P.O. Box 18124
Pittsburgh, PA 15236

### South Carolina

South Carolina Texas Instruments
Computer Club (TIC)
Danny Pack
225 Wychwood Drive
Irmo, SC 29063
(803) 781-6037

### Texas

Dallas TI Home Computer Group
Doyle Kelly
P.O. Box 672
Wylie, TX 75098
(214) 995-4068

*Fort Worth:*
Andy Belivacqua
Route 2, Box 75-U
Mansfield, TX 76063
(817) 473-0712

Houston Users' Group
Raymond Wells
8922 Roos Road
Houston, TX 77036
(713) 771-3483
(713) 871-8000, Ext. 4516

Lubbock Computer Club
99/4 Users' Group
Brett Pijan
2006 43rd St.
Lubbock, TX 79412
(806) 765-0102

West Texas 99/4 Users' Group
Richard Biddle
P.O. Box 6448, MS 3030
Midland, TX 79701

*Dallas:*
Young Peoples' LOGO Association
1208 Hillsdale Drive
Richardson, TX 75081
(214) 783-7548

### Washington, D. C.

Washington, D. C. 99/4 Users' Group
Bill Whitmore
P.O. Box 267
Leesburg, VA 22075

### Wisconsin

Gene Hitz
"Program Innovators"
2007 North 71st Street
Wauwatosa, WI 53213
(414) 453-0499

# New Home Computer Work Station Desk

Now you can separate your TI Home Computer from your peripherals with an attractive laminated work station desk.

Choose from these three convenient sizes:

- Model #24—Dimensions: 24W x 24D, top shelf 24W x 12D. Price: $225.
- Model #32—Dimensions: 32W x 24D, top shelf 32W x 12D. Price: $240.
- Model #40—Dimensions: 40W x 24D, top shelf 40W x 12D. Price: $255.

The desk system includes a 6-way Plug Strip with an on/off switch and reset button, a bundle of tie-wraps to arrange wires on back of desk, and your choice of three colors: pumice grey, tan, or walnut.

All prices are F.O.B. Richardson, Texas (add 5% sales tax in Texas), and the desk will be shipped UPS. For more information on this computer work station desk, call or write:

Hardin's Computer
Solutions, Inc.
P.O. Box 634
Richardson, Texas 75080
(214) 699-8998

This laminated work station desk provides an attractive setting for your TI Home Computer.

# Random Bits

*Editor's Note*: This column presents suggestions and ideas for using the TI-99/4 and TI-99/4A Home Computer and its accessories. We would like to publish your programming problems, solutions, and ideas. Send letters to:

Personal Computer
Newsletter
Texas Instruments
Incorporated
P.O. Box 53
Lubbock, TX 79408
Attn: Editor

### Using Lower-Case Letters on the TI-99/4 Home Computer

To create a lower-case character set on the TI-99/4 Home Computer in TI Extended BASIC, include the following lines of code at the beginning of a program:

```
10 FOR I=65 TO 90
20 CALL CHARPAT(I,A$)
30 B$=''0000'' & SEG$(A$,1-
,4) & SEG$(A$,7,4) & SEG$(-
A$,13,4)
40 CALL CHAR(I+32,B$)
50 NEXT I
```

Then, when you want to allow entry of lower-case letters from the keyboard, include the following line of code in your program.

```
CALL KEY(5,A,B)
```

(Remember to number this statement to reflect its appropriate position in the program.)

To restore the keyboard for the entry of upper-case letters, use this line of code in your program.

```
CALL KEY(3,A,B)
```

*Warning*: Lower-case characters will have unpredictable results except when used in quoted strings and data statements.

### Los Angeles Users' Groups Expanding

TI-99/4 and TI-99/4A users in different parts of the Los Angeles area are in the process of forming several additional groups to try to accommodate all interested individuals. If you are interested in their groups, contact the following individuals:

Hacienda Heights Area

Ed Santogrossi
(714) 521-3910
(213) 968-2731

Redondo Beach Area

Bob Saunders
(213) 540-1089
Arnie Setz
(213) 370-0529

*Texas Instruments invented the integrated circuit, the microprocessor, and the microcomputer. Being first is our tradition.*